Deputy Mayor C. Collins assumed the chair.

9:30 a.m. Corporate Overview – Operating & Capital

City Manager Glen Peace provided an overview of expectations for the 2007 budget.

Joe Rinaldo, General Manager of Finance, Corporate Services provided an overview of the 2007 Budget by powerpoint. Highlights included the following:
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- Draft Net Operating Budget
- Residential Tax Impact
- No service or program reductions in draft budget
- Social Services investments over 6 million
- Solid Waste Management Master Plan
- Reductions and Enhancements
- Council Referred and Other Enhancements
- Budget Impact overview
- Tax Policies
- Area Rating
- Risks
- Potential Tax Impact on an average home
- Next Steps

Council members addressed various issues including:
- Status of provincial monies and meetings with the Province
- Projected numbers for last year’s budget compared to actuals for the reduction items being proposed
- Do we have more or less employees since amalgamation
- GTA Social Services Pooling
- Job equity/Pay equity
- Reduction options for Transit Fare
- Dates for Tax Policy/Area Rating
- Budget Reduction options
- Assessment – PIL’s

Staff were directed to provide the following information:
- Tax Impacts by Ward
- GTA Social Services Pooling – how much additional revenue would we be saving if Hamilton was included? – Staff to do assessment
- Provide numbers on assessment impacts and where the PIL’s currently stand
- Business Tax Reduction and Residential Tax Impact – staff to report

10:00 a.m. Corporate Services

Mr. Rinaldo provided an overview of the Corporate Services Budget. Highlights included the following:
- Accomplishments for 2007
- Financial Sustainability – Tax Competitiveness
- Maintaining City’s AA Credit Rating
- Timely Financial Reporting
- Development of a Disaster Recovery
- RFP for External Audit Services for city and HUC
- 2007 Objectives/Initiatives
- 2007 Net Operating budget by Division
Committee recessed at 10:45 a.m. to host the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton Scotland.

Committee reconvened at 1pm

Public Works Budget Presentation

Scott Stewart provided an overview of the budget. Highlights included:

- Review of Organization Chart
- 2006 Accomplishments per division
- 2007 Objectives and Initiatives
- Strategic Plan
- 2007 Net Operating Budget by Division/Program
- 2007 Major Cost Drivers
- 2007 Budget Reductions
- 2007 Program Enhancements
- Projects by Program and Major Cost Drivers
- Capital Planning and Implementation

Committee requested the following additional information:

1. Comparison of budget figures from today and 2002-2004 – concern with double digit figures being presented. Staff to provide options to reduce the line items with the high increases

2. Staff to provide information on last figures for commodity pricing

3. Floral Islands – staff to provide listing of how many/where we have islands and which ones will be deleted

4. Transfer Payments – Report back on what we are currently receiving for Public Works

5. Street Tree Trimming – staff to provide an update, including rural roads

6. Traffic Fare Increase – Staff to provide options to fare increases and impacts

7. DARTS – Number of rides per year – how do we reconcile rides?

What can we do to make sure that the programs have built in transportation costs with the Ministry (i.e. dialysis) – Council to lobby at the Provincial level. Need a position by Council on this issue.

Meeting adjourned